United Nations E/2017/61

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
27 April 2017

Original: English

2017 session
28 July 2016-27 July 2017
Agenda item 18 (d)
Economic and environmental questions: human settlements

Coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2016/24. It describes the activities undertaken by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in cooperation with other entities and organizations of the United Nations system in the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

The report concludes with four recommendations, calling upon Member States to:

(a) Work towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito in 2016, building on the Habitat Agenda adopted at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1996;

(b) Support, including financially, the work of UN-Habitat as a focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements development, including in the implementation, follow-up and review of the New Urban Agenda, in collaboration with other United Nations entities;

(c) Promote the leadership role of national Governments in the definition and elaboration of national urban policies;

(d) Strengthen subnational and local governments in the local implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2016/24.

2. During the reporting period, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) enhanced its cooperation with United Nations system organizations and agencies, as well as other partners, including national, subnational and local governments, intergovernmental organizations, development institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector, professional associations, and research and training institutions.

3. The activities described in the present report refer to the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the preparations undertaken for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). The outcome document of Habitat III, the New Urban Agenda, adopted in Quito in October 2016, builds on the Habitat Agenda adopted at the United Nations Conference on Human settlements (Habitat II) in 1996, and defines a common vision for implementing sustainable urban development in the next decades.

II. Activities at the global level

A. United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development

4. By its resolution 66/207, and in line with the bi-decennial cycle, the General Assembly decided to convene Habitat III in order to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urbanization that should focus on the implementation of a New Urban Agenda, which should build on the Habitat Agenda.

5. Habitat III was held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016. With 30,000 participants, the New Urban Agenda was adopted without reservations by all participating States on 20 October 2016. Subsequently, the General Assembly, in its resolution 71/256, adopted it on 23 December 2016.

6. In the New Urban Agenda, urbanization is framed as a strategic issue, both for local and national governments, consolidating the vision of urbanization as an endogenous source of development and setting a new global standard for sustainable urban development. It serves as a 20-year road map towards sustainable urbanization in an increasingly urbanizing world. It underscores the need to take advantage of the opportunities presented by urbanization as an engine of sustained and inclusive economic growth, social and cultural development, and environmental protection, and of its potential contribution to the achievement of transformative and sustainable development.

Preparations for Habitat III

7. As part of the preparations for the Conference, a United Nations task team on Habitat III was established in January 2015, comprising more than 40 agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system. It prepared inputs for the preparatory process in the form of issue papers on 22 key urban topics. Ten policy units were created, each of which was co-lead by two organizations and institutions working on urban issues. The units were composed of 20 experts, representing a variety of sectors, including academic institutions, government, civil society and regional and international bodies, who prepared 10 policy papers for Habitat III.

8. At the regional level, four meetings were held: in Jakarta in October 2015; in Abuja in February 2016; in Prague in March 2016; and in Toluca, Mexico, in April 2016. The regional meetings provided recommendations in the form of regional declarations that served as official inputs for the preparations of the zero draft of the Habitat III outcome document.

9. A series of thematic meetings were also held between September 2015 and April 2016: in Tel-Aviv, Israel, in September 2015, on civic engagement; in Montreal, Canada, in October 2015, on metropolitan areas; in Cuenca, Ecuador, in November 2015, on intermediate cities; in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in January 2016, on sustainable energy and cities; in Mexico City in March 2016, on financing urban development; in Barcelona, Spain, in April 2016, on public spaces; and in Pretoria in April 2016, on informal settlements.

10. Open-ended informal consultative meetings were held in New York from 25 to 29 April 2016. The purpose of the meetings was to provide an opportunity for feedback on the conclusions of the Habitat III policy units and the regional and thematic meetings before the Bureau of the Habitat III Preparatory Committee submitted the zero draft of the New Urban Agenda on 6 May 2016.

11. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/210, representatives of local authorities' associations and of major groups and other stakeholders were invited to informal hearings, convened over a two-day period in both May and June 2016, to facilitate an exchange views with Member States on the zero draft of the New Urban Agenda.

12. The informal hearings were arranged through a unique partnership with the General Assembly of Partners, which coordinated the participation of 16 distinct partner constituent groups, including Habitat Agenda partners, Agenda 21 major groups and other key constituencies relevant to sustainable urban issues, and with the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments, which coordinated the participation of major international networks of local governments. The General Assembly of Partners and the Global Task Force ensured the participation and active engagement of stakeholders throughout the Habitat III preparatory process and during the Conference.

13. The third and final session of the Habitat III Preparatory Committee was hosted by the Government of Indonesia in Surabaya, from 25 to 27 July 2016. Member States discussed an advanced draft of the New Urban Agenda but were not able to reach an agreement on a number of issues at the time. A final round of informal intergovernmental negotiations on the New Urban Agenda was held in New York from 7 to 10 September 2016, at the end of which consensus was reached on the final draft outcome document of the Habitat III.

14. UN-Habitat played a prominent role in the preparatory process for Habitat III and in the development of the outcome document. Among other activities, UN-Habitat co-led the policy unit for national urban policies and provided technical support to several other policy units. It led or co-led the development of 18 of the 22 Habitat III issues papers. In addition, UN-Habitat worked closely with the regional commissions and the Habitat III secretariat, in the elaboration of the Habitat III regional reports. UN-Habitat provided technical advisory services to numerous countries with regard to the development of Habitat III national reports.

15. During the Conference, UN-Habitat led or co-led over 60 events with the participation of a wide range of United Nations system agencies and organizations, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, mayors and local authorities, universities, research institutions, youth and women's organizations, individual experts, the private sector,

the Bretton Woods institutions and other Habitat Agenda partners. UN-Habitat also contributed to the high-level round tables, dialogues, assemblies and special sessions that were held during the Conference.

16. As part of the follow-up to and review of the New Urban Agenda, and with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of UN-Habitat, the General Assembly, in paragraph 172 of its resolution 71/256, requested the Secretary-General to submit an evidence-based and independent assessment of UN-Habitat to the Assembly during its seventy-first session. The result of the assessment would be a report containing recommendations on enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and oversight of UN-Habitat. The report would serve as an input for a two-day high-level meeting of the Assembly, to be convened by the President of the Assembly during the seventy-first session, to discuss the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the positioning of UN-Habitat in that regard. A Chair's summary of the meeting would serve as an input for consideration by the Second Committee during the seventy-second session of the Assembly, in the light of the recommendations contained in the independent assessment.

B. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals

17. Since the creation of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators by the Statistical Commission in 2015, UN-Habitat has supported and assisted Member States and national statistical offices in the development and definition of indicators and the preparation of metadata, including specific proposals for data collection analysis and the use of spatial information for the disaggregation of data. UN-Habitat actively participated in the meetings organized by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group in 2016.

18. The monitoring of cities in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda poses challenges to UN-Habitat since it has not been possible to monitor all the cities of every country. In order to be able to undertake this activity at the global level, there is therefore a need to further develop the national approach to monitoring sample cities. In this regard, UN-Habitat has been advocating for member States to adopt such an approach as an effective alternative and reliable option. In addition, UN-Habitat has found that new partnerships and collaborations are required in order to more effectively monitor certain spatially dependent indicators.

19. UN-Habitat also coordinated the inputs of other United Nations system entities and development partners on the review and refinement of the indicators for Goal 11 and for other Goals with an urban dimension. UN-Habitat organized thematic expert group meetings on various targets and indicators, coordinated work stream groups with the World Bank and United Nations partner organizations on specific indicators and prepared a global monitoring framework guide for Goal 11, a simplified concept for applying the national sample of cities and a work plan and strategy to transform tier III indicators into tier II indicators, as part of the process to refine the indicators, in line with the suggestions and requests of the Statistical Commission in 2016. UN-Habitat contributed storylines to the first annual report of the Secretary-General on the Sustainable Development Goals, which was issued in 2016 and featured the reporting process on four of the indicators for Goal 11.

20. In January 2017, UN-Habitat organized an expert group meeting on indicator 11.6.1, on urban solid waste, for experts and practitioners, including a number of United Nations system entities, such as the Environmental Statistics Section of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the

Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, to work on refining the indicator.

21. UN-Habitat continued to work with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Meteorological Organization to develop a global framework for monitoring progress on the Sustainable Development Goal 6 targets, under the umbrella of UN-Water. Established in 2014, with UN-Habitat, UNEP and WHO as lead agencies, the Global Expanded Monitoring Initiative has developed monitoring methodologies that are currently being piloted in seven proof-of-concept countries: Bangladesh, Fiji, Jordan, Netherlands, Peru, Senegal and Uganda.

22. UN-Habitat took part in the annual meeting of UN-Energy, organized at the margins of the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Marrakech, Morocco, in 2016, in which 11 other United Nations agencies participated to review their work on energy issues, in particular on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 7 in the context of mitigating the impacts of climate change.

23. UN-Habitat delivered a break-out session on poverty, inequality and youth participation in urban areas during the annual Economic and Social Council Youth Forum held in New York on 1 February 2017. UN-Habitat coordinated with the United Nations Population Fund and the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Youth Assembly to host a youth summit in the lead-up to the World Humanitarian Summit held in Istanbul, Turkey, in May 2016,. The Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action was launched during the youth summit with the support of over 25 different government and non-government entities. Together with Nexus Brazil, UN-Habitat hosted a high-level event in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, during the 2016 Olympics to discuss the power of sport to drive social change, in particular with regard to youth and the Sustainable Development Goals.

C. United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and related mechanism

24. UN-Habitat continued to participate in the Chief Executives Board for Coordination and its three pillars, namely, the High-level Committee on Programmes, the High-level Committee on Management and the United Nations Development Group.

25. At its first regular session for 2016, held in Vienna on 27 and 28 April, the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) endorsed the paper entitled "Urbanization and sustainable development: a United Nations system input to a New Urban Agenda", which called for a coherent and coordinated approach to urbanization across the United Nations system.

26. Despite the challenges caused by not being a resident agency in many countries, UN-Habitat regularly participated in thematic and coordination meetings of the United Nations Development Group in order to promote a better understanding of sustainable urban development and ensure a more appropriate reflection of its priorities within multilateral programming instruments and the development of joint programmes and activities.

27. In May 2016, UN-Habitat partnered with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to organize a dialogue in New York on human rights and urbanization for the United Nations Development

Group-Human Rights Working Group dialogue series on frontier issues. The aim of the dialogue series was to provide leadership on the human rights implications of some of the key challenges facing the international community today and on how human rights can facilitate strategic solutions that place the dignity of the human person at the centre of the United Nations system's efforts to respond to the challenges.

D. *World Cities Report*

28. UN-Habitat produced its new flagship report, the *World Cities Report*. The publication is the first edition of the series and follows the amalgamation of the two previous flagship global reports of UN-Habitat, the *Global Report on Human Settlements* and *The State of the World's Cities*.

29. The 2016 report, entitled *Urbanization and Development: Emerging Futures — World Cities Report 2016*, provides an analysis of urban development over the past 20 years, reflecting new forms of collaboration and cooperation, planning, governance, finance and learning that would be used to sustain positive change. According to the report, the current model of urbanization is unsustainable in many respects. In that regard, the report contains proposals on ways to change the current pattern of urbanization in order to better respond to current and emerging challenges, including on issues such as inequality, climate change, informality and insecurity.

E. World Habitat Day and World Cities Day

30. The theme of World Habitat Day 2016 was "Housing at the centre", and the global observance was held in Njamena. The theme of World Cities Day 2016 was "Inclusive cities, shared development", and the global observance was held in Quito on 31 October, a few days after Habitat III had concluded and the New Urban Agenda had been adopted.

31. UN-Habitat has continued the collaboration with the International Exhibitions Bureau, Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, China, and the Shanghai Municipality. The collaboration resulted in the publication of the second edition of the "Shanghai manual 2016 — a guide for sustainable urban development in the twenty-first century".

F. World Urban Campaign

32. The World Urban Campaign has continued to play a central role in global advocacy by raising awareness on urbanization challenges, solutions and opportunities. During the reporting period, the Campaign grew considerably in terms of visibility and engagement, including with 188 partners and members.

33. During 2016, Campaign partners engaged in the elaboration of specific recommendations and "urban solutions" in order to achieve the goals and priorities set out in the report entitled "The city we need". The report is a global manifesto prepared at, and reflecting the outcomes of, 26 "urban thinkers campuses", which engaged approximately 7,800 participants and 2,200 organizations. The most compelling messages were disseminated through several channels to showcase solutions and generate commitments in advance of the convening of Habitat III.

III. Activities at the regional level

34. At the regional level, UN-Habitat continued to work closely with national Governments in the preparations for regional ministerial meetings. It worked collaboratively with other United Nations system organizations, namely, the regional economic commissions, and with regional intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, including regional financial institutions.

A. Regional ministerial meetings

African Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development

35. With the support of UN-Habitat, the Government of Morocco organized the first African Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development, which was held in Rabat in May 2016 on the theme "Urban policies and sustainable development". Ministers adopted the Rabat Declaration. The Government of Senegal agreed to host the next session of the Forum in Dakar in 2018.

Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development

36. The sixth Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development was hosted by the Government of India in New Delhi in December 2016. It was the first major regional meeting of ministers of housing and urban development since the conclusion of Habitat III and the adoption of the New Urban Agenda. UN-Habitat provided significant technical support.

General Assembly of Ministers and High-level Authorities of Housing and Urban Development of Latin America and the Caribbean

37. UN-Habitat has initiated preparations for the forthcoming twenty-sixth General Assembly of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector of Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be hosted by the Government of Argentina in Buenos Aires in June 2017.

B. Regional economic commissions

38. UN-Habitat worked closely with the regional economic commissions in the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda and during the preparatory process for Habitat III.

Economic Commission for Africa

39. In partnership with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Habitat III secretariat, UN-Habitat supported the participation of least developed countries in Africa in the preparatory process for Habitat III through the development of national reports and the Habitat III regional report for Africa. In addition, with the effort spearheaded by ECA, UN-Habitat contributed to the development of the United Nations-African Union partnership on Africa's integration and development agenda for 2017-2027 to support the aspirations and goals of the first 10-year implementation plan (2014-2023) of Agenda 2063.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

40. UN-Habitat worked closely with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Habitat III secretariat with regard to the preparation of the Habitat III regional report for Asia and the Pacific. The task team

on urbanization, led by UNEP and supported by ESCAP, aimed at coordinating the input of United Nations agencies for the Habitat III process at the regional level.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

41. UN-Habitat maintained a strong relationship with the Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA) with regard to the identification and development of strategic plans and regional programmes. It contributed a chapter on urban issues for the ESCWA-led Arab sustainable development report and led efforts for the technical drafting of the Habitat III Arab region report in collaboration with the Habitat III secretariat. In 2016, ESCWA became an implementing partner in the regional programme on sustainable, inclusive and evidence-based national urban policies in select Arab States.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

42. UN-Habitat worked closely with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Habitat III secretariat on the preparation of the Habitat III regional report for Latin America and the Caribbean. UN-Habitat also supported ECLAC in enhancing accountability capacities and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals at the local level in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil and Peru.

Economic Commission for Europe

43. UN-Habitat worked closely with the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Habitat III secretariat in the preparations of the Habitat III regional report. UN-Habitat has also continued its partnership with ECE and the World Bank to advance the issue of housing finance and housing affordability in both developed and developing countries in the region. UN-Habitat also partnered with ECE in the implementation of international guidelines on urban and territorial planning and in the review of planning systems in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

C. Cooperation with regional intergovernmental organizations and development institutions outside the United Nations system

44. Institutional cooperation in this area focused notably on activities with the African Union and the European Union in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. Many regional intergovernmental organizations and development institutions also supported UN-Habitat projects at the local or country level and during the preparatory process for Habitat III.

African Union

45. In preparation for Habitat III, UN-Habitat and ECA provided technical support to the African Union for the development of the Africa Common Position on Habitat III, which was prepared in Abuja and adopted by at the twenty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in Kigali in July 2016. At their meeting in December 2016, the Ministers of Housing approved the development of an African regional framework for implementation of the Common Position and the New Urban Agenda, taking into account Sustainable Development Goal 11 and other urban-related targets.

European Union

46. In May 2016, the European Union adopted the Urban Agenda for the European Union, which had been developed by the European Union Urban Development Group with support from UN-Habitat. The European Union and UN-Habitat jointly prepared a report entitled *The State of European Cities 2016: Cities Leading the Way to a Better Future*, which was launched at Habitat III. At the Conference, the European Union and UN-Habitat also launched an initiative on voluntary commitments to implement the New Urban Agenda through the Urban Agenda for the European Union. Together with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank and with support from UN-Habitat, the European Union also launched an initiative to develop a new global people-based definition of cities.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

47. UN-Habitat and OECD partnered on a number of substantive publications and events. Highlights include the *OECD Regional Outlook 2016: Productive Regions for Inclusive Societies*, to which UN-Habitat contributed a chapter on the role of urbanization in sustainable development. UN-Habitat collaborated with OECD and Cities Alliance to implement a global programme for national urban policies, which was launched at Habitat III. OECD and UN-Habitat jointly issued a report entitled "The state of national urban policy in OECD countries: a special report prepared for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)". UN-Habitat and OECD jointly hosted the Second International Conference on National Urban Policy, which was held from 15 to 18 May 2017 in Paris. The Conference is an initiative of UN-Habitat that has gathered support from OECD and Cities Alliance.

Land Policy Initiative

48. UN-Habitat continued to support the Land Policy Initiative, which is a joint programme of the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and ECA, in the implementation of the Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa signed by Heads of State and Government of the African Union in 2009. UN-Habitat is a member of the Land Policy Initiative Steering Committee, and led the capacity development component of the initiative in support of African member States in the implementation of the Declaration.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations

49. UN-Habitat, within the framework of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-United Nations Plan of Action 2016-2020, is working closely with ASEAN, in particular in the areas of environmentally sustainable cities, and climate change and cities. UN-Habitat also supports the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response.

D. Regional financial institutions

African Development Bank

50. Following the implementation of the first phase of the Lake Victoria Region Water and Sanitation Initiative, UN-Habitat entered into a partnership with AfDB and the East African Community (EAC) to extend the initiative to include 15 additional towns. UN-Habitat is responsible for the training and capacity-building

component of the initiative, while each of the five EAC partner member States is responsible for implementing the physical infrastructure component.

51. In addition, AfDB supported the strengthening of the public works sector in Somalia, through a programme that aims to increase the delivery of equitable, affordable and sustainable services that promote national peace and reconciliation. Together with AfDB, UN-Habitat issued a report on housing market dynamics in Africa, which contains recommendations for Governments, development finance institutions, the private sector and other stakeholders.

European Investment Bank

52. In partnership with the European Investment Bank (EIB), UN-Habitat delivered over 300 sanitation facilities to meet the sanitation needs of about 250,000 individuals, including for those attending 150 schools in the slums of Mwanza, United Republic of Tanzania.

Asian Development Bank

53. UN-Habitat and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Institute jointly collaborated on housing finance activities, including the organization of an expert group meeting in Madrid on innovative housing finance solutions. The meeting was also supported by EIB. In addition, UN-Habitat and ADB jointly supported national Governments and city authorities in Cambodia, Mongolia and Myanmar in building capacity for sustainable urban development through technical assistance and project financing.

Inter-American Development Bank

54. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat signed and implemented agreements with the Inter-American Development Bank, the Charities Aid Foundation and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration.

IV. Thematic activities at the national and subnational levels

55. UN-Habitat enhanced its cooperation with United Nations system organizations and other partners in implementing activities, including operational projects, at the national, subnational and local levels in the thematic and cross-cutting areas of the organization.

A. Urban legislation, land and governance

56. UN-Habitat developed a number of tools and methodologies to systematically review and reform urban legal frameworks to improve their effectiveness and their enforcement potential. It applied a legal method primarily to planning and development control. Legal maps were developed for planning law in Ecuador, Egypt, Mozambique, the Philippines, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia and Zambia.

57. The issue of land and conflict is now recognized as a key element in the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. This is attributed partly to advocacy efforts linking work on the issue with the broader global processes associated with United Nations reforms, such as the high-level reviews on peace operations and related United Nations resolutions. The United Nations Working Group on Transitions included key elements of the land and conflict issue in the work plans of its Task Team on Conflict Prevention.

58. In partnership with UNEP, UN-Habitat launched an initiative to document the interaction between environmental and urban development decision-making and regulation. With an emphasis on working through the 74 partners of the Global Land Tool Network, UN-Habitat supported the piloting of a variety of tools to promote security of tenure in several countries, including Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, South Sudan, Uganda and Zambia.

59. The UN-Habitat database on urban law, UrbanLex, includes almost 600 laws from 68 countries, organized according to seven areas of urban law that are essential to the sustainability and development of urban areas. The database is being populated by eight core institutional partners covering all of the principal geographic regions of UN-Habitat and of FAO. The UrbanLex partnership also provides a foundation for awareness-raising, training and comparative analysis collaborations, which, in 2016, focused on the quality of law, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, housing, public space and technology regulation.

60. UN-Habitat continued its partnership with local and regional governments and their associations with the aim of enhancing their capacities to offer technical support in the implementation of sustainable urban development. UN-Habitat and United Cities and Local Governments continued to serve as joint secretariats of the United Nations Advisory Committee on Local Authorities. UN-Habitat also supported the initial activities of the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments and contributed, mostly through the United Nations Advisory Committee on Local Authorities, to the second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments, held during Habitat III.

61. All the technical projects in the area of urban governance were implemented in partnership with various institutions, given the limited resources of UN-Habitat, including: Uraia, which has a partnership of 100 members; LSE Cities, which led a project on urban governance; and United Cities and Local Governments, which, together with UN-Habitat, provided methodology elements. Efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals at the local level were led by United Cities and Local Governments, UN-Habitat and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

62. The UN-Habitat Safer Cities Programme continued to develop the Global Network on Safer Cities in order to strengthen the prevention of crime and violence and enhance urban safety. That aim was reflected in the activities of partner-led technical working groups on safer cities and the regional forums that supported the development of United Nations system-wide guidelines on safer cities.

B. Urban planning and design

63. UN-Habitat renewed its commitment to promote national urban policies. The national urban policy development process has begun in several countries in collaboration with national authorities (Argentina, Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Morocco, Myanmar, Sudan and Tunisia) and is ongoing in Angola, Cameroon, Egypt, Solomon Islands and Zambia. National urban policies are being drafted in Liberia and the Philippines, while capacity is being developed in Chad, Ghana and Iraq. Colombia, Mozambique and South Africa have adopted spatial frameworks at the metropolitan level. Subnational urban policy initiatives are also being launched in Nigeria (Niger State) and Zanzibar. Regional programmes on national urban policy are ongoing, including a regional programme on national urban policies in the Arab States.

64. The International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning, which were adopted in 2015, have since been endorsed by seven countries to improve their national, regional and city-level spatial plans and frameworks. The implementation of the Guidelines, as was the case for their formulation, is conducted in consultation with national Governments, United Nations system organizations, international associations of local authorities and urban planning professional associations, as well as members of the Habitat Professionals Forum. Throughout the worldwide process of implementation of the Guidelines, led by UN-Habitat, a total of 27 UN-Habitat partners have been engaged in activities for raising awareness, advocacy and building the capacities of planning constituencies to support the use of the Guidelines by member States of UN-Habitat.

65. UN-Habitat and the International Civil Aviation Organization engaged in joint pilot projects in Addis Ababa, Nairobi, and Ekurhuleni and Johannesburg, South Africa, fostering collaboration between the civil aviation, land-use, planning and urban development authorities with regard to sustainable development.

66. UN-Habitat is supporting 39 cities in sustainable urban planning. In total, 14 local urban planning and design labs have been set up worldwide. A global network of urban planning and design labs has been established, with more than 20 temporary and permanent labs in countries such as Afghanistan, Belarus, Brazil, China, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Haiti, India, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Mozambique, Myanmar, the Philippines, Rwanda, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Somalia and South Africa.

67. In collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and under the overall umbrella of the humanitarian response in Kenya, UN-Habitat is implementing the spatial planning component of the new settlement in Kalobeyei (Turkana County, Kenya) that will function as an urban centre for integrating more than 60,000 refugees and for the host community. Through such work, as well as the active participation of UN-Habitat in conflict and post-disaster situations, for example, in Ecuador, Haiti and Somalia, the approach to urban crisis and to refugees is being discussed and developed.

68. During the reporting period, initiatives on public space were completed in the following nine cities, in conjunction with diverse partners: Buenos Aires; Medellin; Quito; Port-de-Paix, Haiti; Mumbai (Lotus Garden), India; Surabaya and Sidoarjo, Indonesia; Mexico City; Nairobi (Jeevanje Gardens); and Kirtipur (Dey Pukhu), Nepal.

C. Urban economy and municipal finance

69. UN-Habitat continued to contribute to the creation and dissemination of knowledge products on inclusive economic growth, with an emphasis on the promotion of local economic development strategies, the creation of jobs and livelihoods, in particular for youth and women, and the promotion of innovative municipal revenue-generating mechanisms.

70. In 2016, the capacity of a growing number of partner cities to adopt strategies that support inclusive economic growth was enhanced. Six partner cities (Kalobeyei, Homa Bay and Kiambu in Kenya; and Croix-des-Bouquets, Cabaret and Thomazeau municipalities in Haiti) prepared local economic development plans and set priorities on the basis of local economic assessments. In the Philippines, the planned city extensions and the local economic development strategies for four cities were formulated, namely, Iloilo, Silay, Zamboanga City and Cagayan de Oro.

71. Six new partner cities have adopted programmes and strategies for improved urban and municipal finance using new finance management and billing systems. Kiambu County government in Kenya increased its revenue generation from 2.1 billion Kenya shillings in the period 2014-2015 to 2.4 billion Kenya shillings by the second quarter of 2016. In Haiti, the capacity of local authorities to appropriately budget for and coordinate investments towards well-planned and economically beneficial outcomes has improved.

72. UN-Habitat continued to encourage local authorities to use innovative land-based municipal revenue generating tools, such as land value capture. The implementation of these tools, however, requires the introduction of appropriate legal and institutional frameworks at the national level. This is a serious challenge facing local governments.

73. UN-Habitat also conducted a group training on local economic assessments for city extension in Ethiopia and Mozambique and on local economic development and livelihood strategies for youth in Kenya.

74. UN-Habitat took the lead in all the above-mentioned projects, except for the project in Kalobeyei, which was led by UNHCR.

D. Housing and slum upgrading

75. UN-Habitat strengthened its collaboration with ECE on housing strategies in Albania, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine. With direct guidance and technical expertise from UN-Habitat and support from UNDP and OHCHR, Guyana carried out a housing assessment and Lesotho carried out a housing policy framework and implementation strategy. With direct guidance and technical expertise from UN-Habitat and support from OHCHR, the Governments of Afghanistan, Angola and Sri Lanka carried out a housing assessment. UN-Habitat also provided direct support to the Government of Afghanistan to produce a housing policy framework as well as to Zambia (with support from the International Labour Organization (ILO)) and Sri Lanka to update their existing housing policies.

76. UN-Habitat reconfirmed its commitment to the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns by continuing to be a member of the Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee of the 10-Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Buildings and Construction, led by the Government of Finland, along with UNEP, the World Green Building Council and the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. In addition, UN-Habitat agreed to be, together with UNEP, a co-Chair of the 10-Year Framework Programme Inter-Agency Consultative Group for Space Science for the 2016-2017 cycle.

77. Under the framework of the 10-Year Framework Programme, UN-Habitat created a sustainable housing design tool, SHERPA, which reflects the effective collaboration achieved within the Global Network for Sustainable Housing, in particular between UN-Habitat, the International Centre for Earth Construction, the VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland and the University of Cambridge. The aim of the tool is to provide a pre-implementation evaluation of housing projects in developing countries.

78. Also under the framework, UN-Habitat partnered with Oxford Brookes University, Development Alternatives, and the Energy and Resources Institute to develop ways in which India's planned and currently implemented mass social housing schemes could be used to pioneer approaches that were more sustainable. The Mainstreaming Sustainable Social Housing in India Project serves to promote

sustainability in terms of environmental performance, affordability and social inclusion as an integrated part of social development.

E. Urban basic services

79. As a member of the technical working group supporting the High-level Advisory Group of the Secretary-General on Transport, UN-Habitat collaborated with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat with regard to preparations for the Global Conference on Sustainable Transport held in Turkmenistan in November 2016.

80. The Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance, hosted by UN-Habitat, was identified by the Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation as a critical step in the process of improving access to water for the world's poorest. The Alliance has supported over 200 water utilities serving over 1.5 million customers. This has allowed the recipient utilities to work with their mentor partners to identify long-term priorities for the improvement of the overall performance of the utility and to develop performance improvement plans that reflect these priorities.

81. UN-Habitat continued to implement the project supported by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) on sustainable transport for East African cities. In Nairobi, operational plans for the first demonstration of a bus rapid transit corridor have provided the basis for detailed designs and construction.

82. UN-Habitat also continued its partnership with UNEP and GEF on a project to promote energy efficiency in buildings in East Africa. To date, the project has trained over 500 architects, engineers and quantity surveyors in the region on sustainability in the construction environment. The project was instrumental in the development and adoption of the Rwanda building code, which also focuses on energy.

83. A joint initiative with UNEP during the reporting period resulted in the establishment of a network on district energy and the issuance of a report on district energy in cities. UN-Habitat also collaborated with ILO on a project in Kenya for affordable housing, known as "ECO-Manyatta", in which UN-Habitat provided substantive inputs, such as passive building principles to promote environmentally friendly building policies.

84. Together with the Global Water Partnership, the International Water Management Institute, the World Water Council, the International Water Association, the Stockholm International Water Institute, Akvo and the University of South Florida, UN-Habitat established the Urban Waters Hub, which is aimed at improving urban water management.

85. The African Clean Cities Platform is a platform dedicated to promoting knowledge-sharing and project identification. It was established by the Ministry of Environment of Japan, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, UNEP and UN-Habitat as follow-up to the side event on waste management held at the August 2016 Tokyo International Conference on African Development. It resulted from an effective appeal by African delegates who emphasized the importance of continuity in the knowledge-sharing and promotion of investment in solid waste management in Africa.

86. In Kampala, UN-Habitat and the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy launched a "peoples' mobility map", which is an open-sourced map of public transport routes in the city.

F. Risk reduction and rehabilitation

87. Building on the City Resilience Profiling Programme history, collaboration continued between the UN-Habitat global urban resilience programme and a wide range of partners, including the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. In that context, UN-Habitat contributed to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 through its representation on the Senior Management Group on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, which supports the High-level Committee on Programmes.

88. UN-Habitat contributed to the ongoing development of indicators for the monitoring and implementation of the Sendai Framework.

89. UN-Habitat continued its engagement with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, by participating in and providing support to the Committee's Principals Group, Emergency Directors Group, Global Shelter Cluster and reference group for implementing the strategy on meeting humanitarian challenges in urban areas. UN-Habitat also forged broad-based partnerships with United Nations entities and civil society through the Global Alliance for Urban Crises, an initiative established in close collaboration with the secretariat of the World Humanitarian Summit, United Cities and Local Governments, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Rescue Committee and the Department for International Development (United Kingdom). The Alliance was launched during the World Humanitarian Summit, and UN-Habitat is a co-host of the secretariat of the Alliance.

90. The challenge of bridging the gap between humanitarian emergency approaches, while supporting reintegration through the provision of durable solutions that are more sustainable, was addressed in a broad range of humanitarian contexts, including with regard to Afghanistan, Iraq, Kenya, Somalia and the Syrian Arab Republic.

91. In Iraq, UN-Habitat launched its urban recovery programme to support the efforts of the Government to facilitate the return of displaced people to the liberated and highly damaged areas of the country. In Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, UN-Habitat launched multisectoral urban city profiles, which provide detailed analyses of the damage, destruction and levels of functionality of the major components of the urban environment, infrastructure and urban systems that allow a city to function. The UN-Habitat 2016 city profile on Mosul, Iraq, was considered by United Nations system organizations and the donor community as a significant contribution to spatial analysis, in a complex emergency situation, that would strategically guide upcoming stabilization and recovery initiatives.

92. In June 2016, UN-Habitat took on the role of Chair of the steering committee for the "Making cities resilient" campaign, leading the implementation, and second phase, of the campaign, which is aimed at reaching 5,000 city-local government partners by 2020. It will also lead efforts to expand the available options for cities in creating their local resilience strategies.

G. Research and capacity development

93. In addition to the *World Cities Report*, UN-Habitat, jointly with the European Commission, published the *State of European Cities 2016: Cities Leading the Way to a Better Future*, which was launched in October 2016. UN-Habitat completed the

preparation of first phase of the research for a 2017 study on the state of African cities, analysing financial flows for urban development.

94. UN-Habitat proposed the adaptation of a city prosperity initiative to enable Governments to have a more systemic approach to the city. The Initiative is currently being implemented in more than 400 cities across the world. UN-Habitat is currently providing technical advisory services in Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Peru.

95. The UN-Habitat Global Urban Observatory has created a global sample of cities, which is a tool to report on world urbanization trends, conditions and developments. The sample is currently using data on the expansion of urban areas between 1990 and 2015 with regard to 200 cities and it will be used to assist countries in preparing similar samples of urban centres at the national level.

V. Cross-cutting coordination and mainstreaming

96. UN-Habitat designated four cross-cutting issues to be mainstreamed throughout its operational and normative work: climate change, gender equality, human rights and youth. Each issue has developed a unique project formulation marker to help to assess mainstreaming at the inception stage and ensure that the issues are mainstreamed throughout the programmes and projects of UN-Habitat.

A. Gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women

97. UN-Habitat continued to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as essential components of sustainable urban development. UN-Habitat, together with relevant United Nations system organizations and other partners, worked towards promoting women's rights, access to services, and women's and men's equal participation in decision-making. One of the challenges facing UN-Habitat in this regard was the lack of funding to support partner participation in its initiatives.

98. The gender equality marker is systematically and comprehensively applied to all UN-Habitat projects. It was also applied to all 140 projects reviewed by a project appraisal group; 75 per cent of all projects obtained a marker of "gender sensitive" or higher.

99. In December 2016, UN-Habitat began the process of tracking resources dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women, as part of its efforts to meet the requirements of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

100. Together with the municipality of Barcelona, UN-Habitat organized an expert group meeting on the theme "Linking relief, rehabilitation and development: gender-responsive engagement in post-conflict contexts". The communiqué produced at the meeting was aimed at illustrating the specific gender-related dimensions of urban post-conflict contexts and was used by participants/experts at international conferences in the lead-up to Habitat III.

B. Human rights

101. UN-Habitat contributed towards promoting a human rights-based approach in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. Efforts included strengthening and

systematizing its engagement vis-à-vis global policy developments, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Rights Up Front Initiative of the Secretary-General.

102. Following the development of a human rights marker in 2015, the percentage of project documents that reflected human rights awareness and a human rights-based approach increased from 50 to 73 per cent, as a result of concerted efforts in that regard. Most of the projects were designed and implemented by UN-Habitat and partner organizations.

103. UN-Habitat strengthened its partnership with OHCHR through collaboration on two reports: on alternatives to forced evictions in informal settlements, and on homelessness. Both are scheduled to be released in 2017.

104. UN-Habitat continued to assist Member States and other stakeholders in efforts to meet their international commitments, in particular to ensure the full and progressive realization of the right to adequate housing, as provided for in international instruments. The main challenge facing UN-Habitat in that regard is that, whereas international policies have excelled, practices and policies at the national level are lagging behind. For example, forced evictions continue to be carried out, in some cases even in compliance with judicial decisions that are affirmed by national policies not in line with international standards. As such, the normative work of UN-Habitat in 2016 was focused on alternatives to forced evictions at the local and national levels and on the need for eviction impact assessments before, during and after evictions.

105. UN-Habitat strengthened its partnership with UNHCR under the framework of the Mediterranean city-to-City migration project, co-led by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development and United Cities and Local Governments, with UNHCR as an associate partner, in efforts to focus on strengthening migration governance in the Mediterranean region.

106. UN-Habitat continued its collaboration with other United Nations system organizations on indigenous peoples issues in urban areas through the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues by providing input to relevant initiatives. In addition, UN-Habitat continued to promote the right to adequate housing for persons with disabilities through the Inter-Agency Support Group on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

C. Climate change

107. The Compact of Mayors,[1] on whose management committee UN-Habitat sits, achieved significant progress towards climate mitigation and adaptation. The number of mayors committed to the Compact increased from 320 in 2015 to 605 by the end of 2016. The 605 cities have a combined population of approximately 446 million inhabitants.

108. The proposal to merge the Compact of Mayors with the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy was approved. Improvement was also achieved in policies, plans and strategies, which contributed to the mitigation of climate change in six of the cities participating in promoting low emission urban development strategies, funded by ECE and implemented by Local Governments for Sustainability and UN-Habitat. The councils of the six cities — Recife (Brazil), Rajkot and Panaji (India), Balikpapan and Bogor (Indonesia), and KwaDukuza (South Africa) —

[1] The Compact of Mayors is an initiative that encourages cities to publicly commit to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to climate change.

adopted strategies to reduce emissions. By the end of 2016, the International Society of City and Regional Planners had endorsed the Guiding Principles for City Climate Action Planning, becoming the latest of 46 partners.

109. At the twenty-second session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, together with such partners as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (as co-sponsor), UN-Habitat launched an open call for a city to host a scientific conference on cities and climate change. Other organizing partners included UNEP, Local Governments for Sustainability, C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network and Future Earth. The scientific conference is scheduled to be held in March 2018.

110. At the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties, UN-Habitat released the findings of a review (from an urban perspective) of the intended nationally determined contributions that form the heart of the Paris Agreement on climate change. The review found that in 26 of the contributions substantial attention was given to urban issues, while in another 84 moderate attention was given.

111. Together with endorsing partners, including the World Bank, GEF, UNEP and Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, UN-Habitat began to apply its Guiding Principles for City Climate Action Planning to a number of cities engaged in climate action planning or related processes, including Tacloban, Philippines; Honiara; and Port Vila. Implementers released reviews of those ongoing processes for two cities: Vilankulo, Mozambique; and Glasgow, Scotland. Other city-level reviews are ongoing.

112. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat strengthened its engagement with other members of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, including UNEP and WHO. It also participated in the launch of a project in Accra on urban health and short-lived climate pollutants. UN-Habitat is supporting the linkage of this activity (launched under the urban health initiative) into broader urban planning processes in the city. Proposals for other possible collaborations with Coalition partners are under development.

113. Through the Myanmar Climate Change Alliance, spearheaded by UN-Habitat in partnership with UNEP, the Government of Myanmar finalized the Myanmar climate change strategy and action plan; adopted and submitted its intended nationally determined contribution; and is delivering its national climate change policy in order to further reinforce the climate change policy environment. Six partner cities are implementing strategies to reduce emissions. In Bogor, Indonesia, approximately $12 million has been allocated to revitalize the city's bus rapid transit system and convert a portion of the city's microbuses to two types of cleaner fuels. In KwaDukuza, South Africa, guidelines for the construction of green builds have been approved.

114. The development of an assessment framework for the implementation of nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement on climate change has been discussed by a coalition of partners, including the Commonwealth and UNEP. In order to raise awareness about the need for cities to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate-related impacts, UN-Habitat launched two reports: "Addressing climate change in national urban policy: a policy guide for low-carbon and climate resilient urban development", which is intended to assist decision makers in ensuring that urban policies empower local authorities to take climate action; and "Sustainable urbanization in the Paris Agreement: comparative review of nationally determined contributions for urban content".

D. Youth

115. UN-Habitat worked with Sadguru Sadafaldeo Vihangam Yoga Sansthan, based in Chhattisgarh State, India, where three One Stop Youth Centres have been established to train young men and women in vocational skills training.

116. A new life skills and livelihood programme, "Get to Work!" (*Shaqeso*), is currently being piloted in Mogadishu, with the aim of training thousands of young men and women in entrepreneurship and other applicable skills relevant to the local job market.

117. The Youth and Governance programme of UN-Habitat focuses on developing models of engagement for youth in local governance. In the second phase of a county innovation challenge project based in Kenya, efforts are being made to harness the problem-solving potential of young men and women through a hackathon, in order to come up with information and communications technology solutions to local governance challenges.

118. In 2016, the India Youth Fund granted funding to five youth-led groups in the areas of environment, women's rights and entrepreneurship development; the Colombia Youth Fund will support 10 youth-led groups working on peace and entrepreneurship.

119. UN-Habitat also worked with indigenous and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex communities to map cultural heritage sites in Otavalo, Ecuador, in order to develop an indigenous cities declaration and a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community declaration on urban sustainability.

VI. Recommendations

120. In the light of the issues discussed in the present report, Member States are called upon to:

(a) Work towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito in 2016, building on the Habitat Agenda adopted at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1996;

(b) Support, including financially, the work of UN-Habitat as a focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements development, including in the implementation, follow-up and review of the New Urban Agenda, in collaboration with other United Nations entities;

(c) Promote the leading role of national Governments in the definition and elaboration of national urban policies;

(d) Strengthen subnational and local governments in the local implementation of the New Urban Agenda.